

OLSEN CREEK MEETING NOTES - DECEMBER 2, 2008



On December 2, 2008, City of Auburn staff met with residents of the Olsen Creek Neighborhood in the Schiechl's home at 10941 SE 298th Street to discuss neighborhood concerns.

Staff in Attendance: MAYOR PETE LEWIS, ASST. POLICE CHIEF LARRY MILLER, POLICE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS OFFICER ANDY GOULD, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MANAGER SARAH MILLER, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CERT COORDINATOR REBECCA ADAMS, TRANSPORTATION PLANNER CHRIS HANKINS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER DUANNA RICHARDS

Community Members in Attendance: DAVE HEUTCHY, DAVID GREENWOOD AND ELIZABETH OWCORZ, IRIS WATSON, JIM AND MARY SCHIECHL, JUNE AND BOB LITTLE, KENAND JANICE MONTRY, MEL RUGG, ROBERT, ELLEN AND NATHLIN WILLIAMS, ROGER ESTHER AND SHELLEY BUXTON

Announcements

Mayor Lewis facilitated the meeting and discussed the following:

- ***Mayor's Update*** -- residents were encouraged to sign up for the Mayor's Update, an e-newsletter Mayor Lewis sends out every Friday about what's taken place in the City during the week, upcoming events, etc. He also uses the listserv to send out alerts about road closures, emergencies, etc. as a way to keep the community informed. Since this is a listserv, if you decide you don't want to continue receiving it you can unsubscribe at any time.
- ***Olson Farm*** – the Mayor told the group about the City's historic Mary Olson Farm located on the other end of Olson Creek and offered to schedule a tour for interested Olson Creek residents in the summer.

General Questions/Comments

- **They are still receiving the Kent Reporter instead of the Auburn Reporter.**
City staff will contact the Auburn Reporter to remind them the city limits have been changed.
- **What School District are we part of?**
School District boundaries are different than the City boundaries for Auburn and Kent, and this neighborhood is still within the Kent School District.
- **Veterans Day Parade**
A resident thanked the City for putting together such a wonderful Veterans Day Parade every year.

Development Related Questions/Comments

- **What about density policies—can we put additional homes on our property now?**
The only reason Auburn annexed this area was because King County had a stated policy to build higher densities on the hillsides; the City of Auburn wanted to stop the higher density development from continuing to happen. Auburn intends to keep lower densities on hillsides and higher densities in the valley.
- **Is it true that the Yarrow Bay development is still considered to be Kent?**
Mayor Lewis talked about the Yarrow Bay development and that it is considered part of Kent. The agreement between Auburn and Kent entails once development is completed it will then be annexed to the City of Auburn.

- **Is the development south of 277th part of Auburn and are there plans to widen S. 277th?**

Yes, it is part of Auburn. The area on north side of 277th from there to the river is designated as farming area. The area along Hwy. 167 has been slated for industrial development for decades.

The Valley Drive-in was sold to a developer who will be putting in big box stores and part of their agreement with the City is to widen that road. The drive-in will most likely be running for a couple more years.

- **What are the City's plans to revitalize Auburn?**

Mayor Lewis talked about six different blocks Downtown that have planned development activity. The City has assembled 26 parcels in the downtown area to promote development. One block is owned by the Auburn Regional Hospital, where they have started building a parking garage and a 40,000 square foot oncology center. Another block, also known as the tavern block, has been demolished to make way for an Annex Building. There are plans to transform the block where Marvel Foods is located into a five story building with a mixed use focus. The SE blocks are owned by the City and will be built out in the spring of 2010. The open lot on Main Street, including the two-story structure behind it (the Cavanaugh block), is currently on the market at \$7.4 million; when it does sell the City plans to ensure whatever gets built there will tie in with the surrounding plans.

Public Safety Related Questions/Comments

- ***Overview of Police Department and Block Watch, Citizens Academy and Volunteer Programs***

Asst. Police Chief Larry Miller explained how the Auburn Police Department functions and Officer Andy Gould gave a brief overview of how Block Watch works. Block Watch is built on the concept of neighbors watching out for each other because you know better than anyone else who belongs in your neighborhood and who doesn't. If you think "maybe I should call 9-1-1 about this," you should. Residents were encouraged to sign up to participate in a Block Watch and told National Night Out (the first Tuesday night in August) would be a good time to have a block party. This group is definitely interested in participating National Night Out.

The Police Department also offers an 11-week program to help residents better understand the Auburn Police Department and why officers do what they do called Citizens Academy, and the Police Volunteer program that was set up to support and assist the Auburn Police Department.

- ***Parking Enforcement***

The City has hired new Parking Enforcement Officers so you can report parking violations to the Police Department. It was advised to be careful what you ask for because when the Parking Enforcement Officers are in the neighborhood they will ticket everyone in violation of a parking ordinance.

- ***Is it true that car break-ins are considered to be vandalism and not worth reporting or are Auburn Police willing to investigate them? It appears to be the same people targeting their neighborhood over and over again; it always seems to be the same MO when things happen in the neighborhood.***

Residents were encouraged to report everything to 9-1-1. We, the citizens of Auburn, own the 9-1-1 system. You should call 9-1-1 whenever you have an emergency, feel something suspicious is going on, need to speak with an officer and/or file a report. (An online reporting system is also available 24 hours a day at http://www.auburnwa.gov/police/online_reporting.asp if you would prefer to file your report that way.) PLEASE NOTE: If calling from a cell phone you need to ask for an "Auburn Call Receiver."

Auburn shares ownership of the 911 system with other South King County cities and the calls go to a dispatch center so residents shouldn't worry about tying up the phone line when making non-emergency calls. When you call 9-1-1 it will be answered by a "Call Receiver." The Call Receiver will determine whether or not your call is an emergency to be handled right away or to have an officer make contact with you to file a non-emergency report. They will ask questions which are specifically designed to obtain information so that the proper response can be made for your call.

If you want to know what the officer finds out be sure to let the Call Receiver know you DO want to be contacted by the officer when they've completed their investigation.

In addition to emergency issues, residents should also call 9-1-1 for non-emergency issues such as street lights out, stop lights out, missing stop signs, fireworks, loose dogs, sewer backups, water leaks, etc. An alternative is to report them via the City website. The link is under Online Services at the top of the page and is called Online Citizen Report (about half way down the list): http://www.auburnwa.gov/Business/Contracting_Consulting/Online_Citizen_Report.asp

The Mayor explained that our Police Officers won't be found in the Police Station; they are always out in the community in their patrol cars that have been equipped as mobile offices with several computers that give them access to the information they need right there. He also spoke about traffic signal connections and Auburn's pothole patrol (will fill within 48 hours) at 253-931-3048.

One of the residents said the 9-1-1 response has been much better since they were annexed into Auburn.

- ***A resident said lot of dumping takes place off this street and their house in particular seems to be the dumping ground for stolen cars, TVs, appliances, clothing, etc. What should they do about it?***

Residents were encouraged to report the dumping by calling 9-1-1 or through the Online Citizen Report. The City has a community service work crew that can be sent out to help clean up dumpsites.

- ***A resident asked to hear more about disaster planning.***

Emergency Preparedness Manager Sarah Miller gave an overview of several programs offered by the Emergency Management team, including Map Your Neighborhood, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and emergency preparedness classes.

Map Your Neighborhood class helps residents know what resources are located right in their own neighborhoods by mapping out who has what skills, useful equipment and special needs.

CERT is a 24 hour program spread out over six weeks that includes disaster preparedness topics like medical triage, fire extinguisher use, search and rescue, organization, disaster psychology, cribbing and ends with a practical exercise. It is taught four times a year and is free. The next CERT program is a daytime program.

Emergency preparedness classes deal primarily with helping citizens prepare for earthquakes, flooding, power outages and snow. Those interested in any or all of these programs should contact the Emergency Management team at 253-876-1925 or emergencyprep@auburnwa.gov. Ms. Miller mentioned the next CERT program is a daytime program.

Residents were encouraged to register with Auburn Alert, a reverse 9-1-1 calling system, where the City notifies those registered in the event of an emergency.

- ***How is our Fire service different after the annexation?***

Mayor Lewis answered residents are now being served by the Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) and explained how VRFA works. The cities of Algona, Pacific and Auburn joined together as the VRFA, which includes the boundaries of all three cities. The station up on Lea Hill that used to be manned by volunteer firefighters is now manned by trained full-time firefighters 24/7. When asked where they would get the water for neighborhoods without fire hydrants, Mayor Lewis responded that VRFA has equipment that brings water to neighborhoods like this.

Streets/Sewer/Traffic Related Questions/Comments

- ***Is the City of Auburn responsible for street sweeping?***

One resident explained there are large maple trees that drop their leaves on street, it gets very slippery when it rains, causing cars to slide into oncoming traffic; King County used to come sweep the street periodically to help keep all the leaves cleaned up and out of the storm drain.

Yes, it is now the City's responsibility to sweep the streets in the recently annexed areas. Staff will verify that the Street Department has this street on their list of streets to sweep now.

- **The neighborhood is very dark; is there a chance that streetlights can be installed?**
The intersection of 112th SE and SE 287th Street is dangerous because it is so dark; will the City consider putting a light up there so drivers can see where the street goes? The City's Transportation Division will evaluate the situation and get back to the neighborhood with their options for lighting.
- **Will sewers be put in eventually?**
The City works with neighborhoods to determine whether they want to put in a sewer system or not. We will not force it or drive lines through and require residents to hook up except in situations where King County indicates the septic system has failed and needs to be replaced with a sewer.
- **Is there any chance of the sidewalks being finished and hooked up on 112th?**
Sidewalk, curb and gutter are the responsibility of the land owners. The City is happy to help a neighborhood put together an LID (local improvement district) to install sidewalks if they wish to.

Mayor Lewis cautioned the residents to be careful what they ask for because urbanization may change the feeling of their neighborhood.
- **It would be helpful to have some type of barrier or reflector candles installed next to the road where it goes over the creek so drivers can see where they're going and don't drive off the road.**
The City's Transportation Division will look into the situation and take appropriate action.
- **It's extremely dangerous and difficult making turns in and out of the neighborhood. Can the City put speed bumps or stop signs on 112th SE to slow people down?**
Resident explained the mitigation for SE 284th has made the situation for their neighborhood more difficult because traffic used to have to stop there before continuing on 112th SE and now it goes right through so they don't slow down at all before dropping over the hill.

Mayor Lewis responded that the City can't put speed bumps on a hill, it is dangerous and we have to follow very specific State guidelines to determine placement of stop sign; there may be other traffic calming devices that can be utilized to help slow the traffic down. The Transportation Division will look into the situation and take appropriate action.
- **What is the possibility of installing a lower speed limit sign and changing the Dead End sign to a No Outlet sign?**
The City's Transportation Division will look into the situation and take appropriate action.

Summary of Solutions Discussed/Action Items

- Community Services will schedule a tour for interested Olson Creek residents in the summer.
- Community Services will contact the *Auburn Reporter* about service to this neighborhood.
- Police will follow up with those interested in participating in Block Watch and National Night Out.
- Transportation will verify that the Street Department has this street on their list of streets to sweep.
- Transportation will evaluate the need for streetlights on SE 287th St. and get back to the neighborhood with their options.
- Transportation will look into installing some type of barrier or reflector candles next the road where it goes over the creek and take appropriate action.
- Transportation will consider options to help slow traffic down on SE 112th Ave. and take appropriate action.
- Transportation will investigate putting a light up at the intersection of 112th SE and SE 287th Street.
- Transportation will evaluate installing a lower speed limit sign and changing the Dead End sign to a No Outlet sign where SE 287th intersects with 112th SE and take appropriate action.

Community Services Team Contact Information:

- Duanna Richards, Community Services Manager, 253-931-3099 or drichards@auburnwa.gov
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